Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-75 (Previously Cancelled).

76. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising reporting matches to search criteria according to whether or not a degree of connection between a searcher and a potential target is within a connection threshold.

77. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein the connection threshold is established by the potential target.

78. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein the degree of connection represents a number of inter-person relationships between the searcher and the potential target.

79. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein the matches are reported only so long as each inter-person connector between the searcher and the potential target satisfies access control criteria established by a next subsequent connector in a connection path between the searcher and the potential target.

80. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein the search criteria comprise one or more parameters of a personal profile that includes some or all of the following criteria: capabilities, employment history, values, interests, styles, goals, projects, skills, human networks, contacts, profiles of contacts, organizational activities, organizations, profiles of organizations, compensation requirements or educational background.

81. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein some or all of the matches are reported anonymously.

82. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein some or all of the matches are not reported until permission for said reporting is granted by an owner of a profile to which the match pertains.

83. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein one or ore of the matches is reported as a path to information regarding the potential target.

84. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein the matches are searched for according to degrees of trust between contacts specified through user profile criteria.

85. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 84, wherein the matches are searched for by beginning with the potential targets and working backwards to find connecters to the searcher.

86. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising reporting potential matches to search criteria so as to include information regarding degrees of connection between a searcher to each individual represented by the potential matches, wherein the individuals represented by the potential matches are within a specified connection distance from the searcher.

87. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 86, wherein the connection distance is specified by each individual represented by the potential matches.

88. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 86, wherein the connection distance is specified by the searcher as part of the search criteria.

89. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 86, wherein the potential matches are selected using users' personal profiles that include information regarding contacts of each user.

90. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 86, wherein reporting includes reporting information regarding the individuals represented by the potential matches according to access control instructions provided by those individuals concerning levels of details of their personal information which may be revealed to others.

91. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 86, wherein the matches are reported in accordance with access control instructions provided along connection paths between the searcher and the potential target concerning levels of details of personal information which may be revealed to others.

92. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 86, wherein the search criteria comprise one or more parameters of a personal profile that includes some or all of the following criteria: capabilities, employment history, values, interests, styles, goals, projects, skills, human networks, contacts, profiles of contacts, organizational activities, organizations, profiles of organizations, compensation requirements or educational background.

93. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising integrating third party verification reports regarding user-created personal profiles with such profiles for use in a computer-implemented match-making system; and utilizing such verification reports in reporting matches to search criteria established by a searcher, said matches being within a degree of connection between the searcher and an individual represented thereby.

94. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 93, wherein the verification reports are solicited independently of users to which they pertain.

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95. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 93, wherein the verification reports are not editable by users to which they pertain.

96. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 93, wherein the verification reports are solicited in connection with updates to the personal profiles.

97. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 93, wherein the verification reports are not viewable by a user to which the reports pertain.

98. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 93, wherein the personal profiles include some or all of the following criteria: capabilities, employment history, values, interests, styles, goals, projects, skills, human networks, contacts, profiles of contacts, organizational activities, organizations, profiles of organizations, compensation requirements or educational background.

99. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 93, wherein the degree of connection represents a number of inter-person relationships between the searcher and the individual represented by the personal profile.

100. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 99, wherein the degree of connection is established by the individual represented by the personal profile.

101. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 93, wherein the verification reports comprise aggregates of multiple individual verification reports.

102. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented system comprising a software broker configured to report matches to search criteria established by a searcher, the matches representing individuals having personal profiles that satisfy one or more of the search criteria, the personal profiles having been established using contact and relationship management tools to enter contact information and describe relationships to those contacts, said tools provided by the computer-

implemented system and further configured to organize said contacts into categories; said matches being reported if individuals represented thereby are within a contact threshold.

103. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 102, wherein each contact threshold is established by a user who established the associated personal profile.

104. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 102, wherein the matches are reported only if trust criteria between the searcher and the individuals associated with the personal profiles that satisfy the search criteria are met.

105. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising autonomously brokering connections between a searcher and a target so as to provide information regarding inter-personal connections between the searcher and the target according to access control instructions of individuals represented by the inter-personal connections regarding levels of details of themselves and their contacts that may be shared with others.

106. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein at least one of the access control instructions requires personal communication between the searcher and a corresponding connecting individual prior to direct contact between the searcher and the target.

107. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein the access control instructions comprise hierarchical security levels for personal information.

108. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein autonomously brokering connections comprises autonomously determining whether or not a connecting individual in an inter-personal connection path from the searcher to the target is a member of a group to which a succeeding connector in the path has granted access to the succeeding connector's contact information.

109. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein autonomously brokering connections comprises autonomously determining, for one or more connecting individuals in an inter-personal connection path from the searcher to the target, whether or not each preceding connector in the path has been granted by their respective succeeding connector a specified level of access to that succeeding connector's contact information.

110. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein autonomously brokering connections comprises autonomously determining, for one or more connecting individuals in an inter-personal connection path from the searcher to the target, whether or not a preceding connector in the path has been granted a specified level of access to the connecting individual that is at least as high as a level of access that the connecting individual has been granted by a succeeding connector to which the connecting individual will refer a search request.

111. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein the information regarding inter-personal connections between the searcher and the target returned to the searcher depends upon one or more of the following criteria: a nature of a search request issued by the searcher, information requested in the search request issued by the searcher, levels of access granted to connecting individuals by each connector in a path from the searcher to the target, one or more criteria related to a searcher's personal profile, and one or more criteria related to a searcher's organization's profile.

112. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein the access control instructions comprise one or more of: instructions defining an access group, instructions defining a privacy setting, instructions defining criteria for a match to a search, and instructions defining criteria for responses to a search.

113. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising autonomously brokering a connection between a searcher and a target using contact lists of one or more connecting individuals in a inter-personal connection path between the searcher and the target in

response to a search request submitted by the searcher, the search request having been developed by the searcher in response to one or more prompts suggesting amendments which may be made to the searcher's personal profile in order to achieve objectives stated by the searcher in developing the search request.

114. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 113, wherein autonomously brokering connections between the searcher and the target includes providing information regarding the inter-personal connection path between the searcher and the target according to access control instructions of individuals represented therein regarding levels of details of themselves and their contacts that may be shared with others.

115. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 114, wherein at least one of the access control instructions requires personal communication between the searcher and a corresponding connecting individual prior to direct contact between the searcher and the target.

116. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising autonomously brokering a connection between a searcher and a target using contact lists of one or more connecting entities in a connection path between the searcher and the target in response to a search request submitted by the searcher, at least one of the connecting entities being an organization having a profile that is an aggregate of one ore more individual profiles of members of the organization, so as to provide information regarding inter-personal connections between the searcher and the target according to access control instructions of the connecting entities regarding levels of details of the connecting entities and contacts specified in profiles of the connecting entities that may be shared with others.

117. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising autonomously brokering a connection between a searcher and a target using one or more profiles of contact lists of one or more likely connectors in a connection path between the searcher and the target in response to a search request submitted by the searcher; wherein matches to the search request are reported only if a degree of connection between the searcher and the target is within a specified connection threshold.

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118. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 117, further comprising providing information regarding inter-personal connections between the searcher and the target according to access control instructions of the connectors regarding levels of details of the connectors and their contacts that may be shared with others.

119. (Canceled)

120. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 119, wherein the connection threshold is established by the target.

121. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 119, wherein the connection threshold is established by the searcher.

122. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein the target comprises a verifier of information of another.

123. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, further comprising reporting verification information regarding the target.

124. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 123, wherein the verification information is compiled using social network analysis.

125. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, wherein the potential target comprises a verifier of information of another.

126. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, further comprising reporting verification information regarding the potential target.

127. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 126, wherein the verification information is compiled using social network analysis.

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128. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising autonomously brokering a connection between a searcher and a target using contact lists of one or more connecting entities in a connection path between the searcher and the target in response to a search request submitted by the searcher, each of the contact lists being a portion of a user profile of an associated user, each user profile having associated access control instructions which determine portions of the user profiles which may be updated in remote user profile copies maintained by individuals other than the associated user to which the user profile pertains.

129. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 128, wherein updating of the remote user profile copies is performed automatically in response to changes in the associated user's user profile.

130. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 128, wherein updating of the remote user profile copies is performed in response to actions on the part of each individual maintaining such a remote user profile copy.

131. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of any of claims 76, 86 or 93, wherein the matches are ranked according to connection attributes.

132. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 131, wherein the connection attributes comprise one or more of the following: connection distance, degrees of connection, and strength of connection.

133. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 115, wherein the connections are reported as potential matches ranked according to connection attributes selected from a list comprising: connection distance, degrees of connection, and strength of connection.

134. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, comprising integrating third party verification reports regarding user-created personal profiles with such profiles for use in a computer-implemented match-making system; and utilizing such verification reports in reporting

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matches to search criteria established by a searcher, said matches based in part on strengths of relationship in associated chains of connection between the searcher, potential targets and verifiers, if any.

135. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 134, wherein said matches are further based in part on a connection threshold established by the searcher.

136. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 134, wherein viewing of at least portions or all of the verification reports is restricted according to access control instructions.

137. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 136, wherein the access control instructions are those of the verifier.

138. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 136, wherein the access control instructions are those of the user being verified.

139. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 122, wherein verification reports authored by the target are solicited independently of users to which they pertain.

140. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 139, wherein the verification reports are not editable by users to which they pertain.

141. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 139, wherein the verification reports are solicited in connection with updates to the personal profiles.

142. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 139, wherein the verification reports are not viewable by a user to which the reports pertain.

143. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 102, wherein the relationship management tools are configured to analyze a user's communications with the user's contacts to determine natures of relationships with those contacts.

144. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 143, wherein natures of relationships include one or more of: degree of relationship, strength of relationship, and importance of relationship.

145. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 102, wherein the relationship management tools are configured to analyze the matches to determine natures of relationships in chains of connections between the searcher and the individuals having personal profiles that satisfy one or more of the search criteria.

146. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein the target comprises an individual who has previously made a request for the searcher's attention.

147. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 105, wherein the access control instructions of one or more the individuals represented by the inter-personal connections and the target require that a corresponding person be asked to personally communicate a response to a search.